

## AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 9 in its entirety with the following amended paragraph:

Referring to Figs. 1-4, the protective surfboard covering device 15 of the present invention includes, generally, a cover 17 having an inner layer 18, an outer layer 20 and various partition walls 22 that cooperate to define a plurality of compartmentalized inflatable cushions that, in one preferred embodiment, may include a top surface cushion 35, a bottom cushion 45 and a pair of laterally spaced apart sidewall cushions, 55 and 65. The cushions define therebetween an envelope forming a surfboard compartment 80 for receipt of a surfboard 25 therein, and their rear extremities cooperate to form a mouth 81 through which the surfboard is inserted into the surfboard compartment 80.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 4 in its entirety with the following amended paragraph:

In one preferred embodiment as shown in Fig. 4, the cover 17 incorporates a dual-layered construction with an outer layer 20, whose outer surface is exposed to the external environment, and an inner layer 18, whose outer surface is in contact with the various surfaces of the board 25. The layers, 18 and 20, of the cover 17 may be formed of any suitable desired material, and are preferably formed from a non-permeable, flexible and durable yet lightweight material that will withstand exposure to the elements such as water and sunlight while also being resistant to tearing or other damage that may occur upon contact during transport and storage. In one preferred embodiment, the

covering device is so constructed and sized as to when inflated closely fit the contours of at least a portion of the board and yet be receivable in a conventional surfboard travel bag (not shown). For example, it is contemplated that this material may take the form of a skin constructed of a plastic, vinyl, nylon, gortex, canvas or other such suitable materials that are well known in the art. It is also contemplated that the layers, 18 and 20, may further include an inner lining to lend additional water resistance to the cover 17. The exterior surface of the covering device may be treated to allow it to slide more easily into a surfboard travel bag. In that regard, the exterior surface may be frocked to give a smooth finish. Additionally, in some embodiments the covering device will be constructed as a stand-alone cover. In that event, it will be appreciated that to facilitate carrying with a surfboard received therein, a shoulder strap, handle or other similar carrying means (not shown) may be attached to the cover 17.